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Preface—Introduction—The Isthmus of Panama—The Coast of Peru—Cuzco and the Land of Incas—Lake Titicaca and the Central Andes—La Paz and the Bolivian Desert—Chile—Across the Andes—The Straits of Magellan—Argentina—Uruguay—Brazil—The Rise of New Nations—The Relations of Races of South America—The Two Americas and the Relation of South America to Europe—The Condition of Political Life in Spanish American Republics—Some Reflections and Forecasts—Index.

Colored Maps. Cloth Covers, gilt top, 12mo, 630 pages
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Published by THE MACMILLAN CO., 64-66 5th Ave. New York

Just Published

Economic Beginnings of the Far West

By KATHARINE COMAN

Professor of Economics and Sociology, Wellesley College

Maps. Colored Illustrations. Two vols. Cloth 12mo. \$4.00 net the set.

Many books have been written concerning the portion of the United States that lies between the Mississippi River and the Pacific coast—the vast stretch of plain and mountain known to Washington Irving and his contemporaries as the Far West. Every explorer had his chronicler, every mission maintained its records, and every fur trader kept a journal which more or less accurately depicted the regions which he traversed. Local historians have described the origin and growth of towns and states, and the biographies of pioneers, missionaries and statesmen have been compiled. Phases of the dramatic movement by which the Far West was won—Indian wars, diplomatic controversies, political upheavals—have been narrated with painstaking zeal. The original documents are being edited and the out-of-print journals reproduced, so that we have now a mass of material from which to study this aspect of our national history. In the "Economic Beginnings of the Far West," Professor Coman has undertaken to bring together the various elements of the complicated story and to trace in logical sequence a great race achievement.

Beginning with Spanish exploration of New Mexico, Texas and California and the successive attempts to people the country, the narrative makes evident the cause of Spain's failure to create a permanent civilization. Great landed estates worked by peons, missions that accumulated wealth out of the unpaid labors of neophytes, commercial restrictions that stifled colonial industries in the interests of the merchants of Seville and Cadiz, constituted a heavy handicap on nascent enterprises, and the wisest plans of governor and viceroy came to naught. Genuine colonists could not be induced to migrate to the Spanish possessions by flattering proposals, when actual conditions were so adverse to the man of small means and no influence.

In Texas, in New Mexico, in California, the appearance of adventurers from the United States meant the advent of a new regime—the stimulation of trade, the setting up of manufacturers, the exploitation of latent resources. With nonchalant disregard of the legal restraints ordered by the Mexican government, the American invaders, following race instinct and the individualistic creed of the frontier, built flourishing communities on the basis of *laissez-faire*, popular sovereignty, and unrestricted opportunity.

Again, in the Northwest where the Hudson Bay Company had developed a profitable commerce and undertaken to found agricultural communities, the American farmers won a victory which American diplomats had deemed impossible. The emigrants who thronged the Oregon Trail in the early forties were better material for the building of a commonwealth than the trappers and *voyageurs* on whom the Great Company was fain to rely, and Oregon was added to the territory of the United States by inevitable consequence. In the arid waste between the Wasatch Range and the Sierras the resourcefulness, capacity for co-operation and industrial energy of the Anglo-Saxon, winning success from hostile Nature, laid the foundation of prosperity in the face of untoward circumstances. The victory of the pioneer was not merely economic, but social as well. Equality of opportunity, the pre-requisite of growth on virgin soil, became the watchword of progress. The long contest between the aristocratic and the democratic social principle reached a climax in the struggle for Kansas. Here again, in spite of the well-laid schemes and superior force of the slave power, free labor and the quarter section farm prevailed.

The history closes with the Civil War and the final triumph of democratic land-tenure in the Homestead Act.

The book is fully illustrated with first-hand or contemporary pictures, and with originals maps and plans. The Appendix furnishes a full bibliography and a long list of notes and citations.

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